

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2043
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOOTHS
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Public Telephone booths functioning in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether most of these booths remain out of order;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make them functional or to replace these PCOs by latest equipments;
- (d) the number of PCO closed during the last three years in Mumbai and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which these are likely to be reopened?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) The information is at Annexure.
- (b) & (c): Most of the PCOs are functioning properly As and when complaints are received, these are attended to promptly.
- (d) & (e): The details of PCOs closed in Mumbai during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are 667, 1503 and 1231 respectively. These PCOs are closed either due to surrender by the concerned franchisees or due to non-payment of dues by them. These PCOs are permanently closed and hence cannot be re-opened as such.